Development of Forests Department in H.P.

3165. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh for development of Departments Environment and Forests during the last three years, till date;

(b) the amount utilised in State till 31st October, 2002 in this regard; and

(c) the details of specific reasons for non-utilisation of allocated funds by the State, indicating the balance in hand as on date?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The details of funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh for the development of environment and forests during the last three years, and the amount utilised in the State till 31st October, 2002, are given in the Statement (*See* below). The unspent balance lying with the State Government as on date is Rs. 273.19 lakhs. The State Government has time till 31.03.2003 to utilise the funds. However, there has been delay in utilisation of funds on some of the schemes mainly in view of projectisation approach to be followed in implementation of schemes and also construction activities.

Statement

Details of funds allocation to Himachal Pradesh for the development of environment and forests

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	During the last three years and till 31st October 2002	
		Funds allocated	Funds utilised
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	408.80	302.16
2.	Eco-Development in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves	284.19	273.49

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	During the last three years and till 31st October 2002	
		Funds allocated	Funds utilised
3.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project Scheme	180.83	251.83*
4.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project	397.92	411.42*
5.	Non-Timber Forests Produce	134.72	106.54
6.	Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	222.06	119.97
7.	Conservation and Management of Wetlands	120.28	94.70

*includes expenditure of funds previously released.

Awareness about Ozone depletion

3166. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are spending time and funds on creating awareness about Ozone depletion in the country;

(b) if so, the efforts and funding involved this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that the concerned Directorate is very slow in responding to public demands for activity;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that Government respond immediately to demands for camps and other awareness creating activities; and

(e) what other steps Government propose to assist NGOs to help preserve the environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Technical Assistance component of the Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) sector phase out project, Rs. 45 (Rupees Forty Five) lakhs only has been earmarked for creating awareness during the year 2002. The activities taken up include:—